GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2750
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2001
DROUGHT IN M.P.
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of wheat was only one third in the rabi crop this year and the gram and mustard crops have also been affected by drought and water crisis in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the assistance provided by the Union Government to the drought affected farmers of Madhya Pradesh and the special measures taken to provide adequate irrigation facilities in future; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): According to the advance estimates, the production of wheat, gram and mustard in Madhya Pradesh during 2000-2001 is expected to be about 46%, 58% and 54% respectively of the 1999-2000 production. However, the advance estimates are subject to revision after the results of crop cutting experiments are obtained. The decline in production of these crops during 2000-2001 is expected mainly due to aberrant weather conditions. Such annual fluctuations in the production are not unnatural phenomenon.

(b)&(c): An amount of Rs.35.00 crores and Rs.22.72 crores have been released to Government of Madhya Pradesh in January, 2001 and July, 2001 respectively under National Calamity Contingency Fund. In addition, free foodgrains worth approximately Rs.300 crores have been provided for Food for Work Programme in Madhya Pradesh.

A number of short term and long term measures have been initiated/ being initiated which will inter-alia benefit the drought prone areas of Madhya Pradesh as well. The long term measures include inter-basin water transfer schemes as envisaged under the Peninsular Component under the National Perspective Plan, which when implemented, would help resolvethe water scarcity problem of deficit areas including drought prone areas of Madhya Pradesh, implementation of rainwater harvesting/artificial recharging schemes, promoting use of chemicals and films for reducing wastage of water, recycling and reuse of waste water etc. The short-term measures include Drought Prone Areas Programme which covers 25 districts and 134 blocks of Madhya Pradesh for minimizing the adverse effects of drought on production of crops and live-stock, providing Central Loan Assistance to Government of Madhya Pradesh for expeditious completion of on-going Major & Medium Irrigation Projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, implementation of a contingency Plan for drought proofing in 5 severely affected States including Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh with a view to accelerate the programme of exploration and construction of production wells.